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Sender :

| | | | |
|-------|---------------------|-------|--------------|
| Name | Steven M. Jensen | Phone | 617.517.5531 |
| Fax | 617.439.4170 | | |
| Email | sjensen@eapdlaw.com | | |

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Docket No. 55506 (70840)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: N. Itoh et al.

U.S. SERIAL NO: 09/745,074

EXAMINER: T. Rude

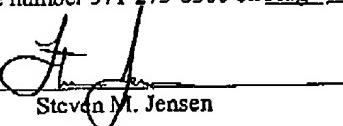
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By: 
Steven M. Jensen

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

AMENDMENT

Applicants are in receipt of the Office Action dated May 8, 2006 of the above-referenced application. Please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.